



MEMORANDUM

TO: Candidates for 2014 Mayor and City Council Election

FROM: Jannette Goodall, City Clerk

DATE: May 5, 2014

SUBJECT: Election Information

The Candidate Guide is a packet containing important information for anyone wanting to run for Mayor or a City Council position in the November 2014 election. Article II, Section 2 of the City Charter specifies the eligibility requirements for anyone who wants to serve on Council:

A candidate for mayor:

- Must meet all eligibility requirements of state law; and
- Must have resided continuously in the state for 12 months and in the city for six months immediately preceding the regular filing deadline for a mayoral candidate's application for a place on the ballot. The City Clerk's office has calculated the relevant residency deadlines as follows: must have been a resident in the state by August 17, 2013; must have been a resident in the city by February 17, 2014 to be eligible.

A candidate for city council from a council district:

- Must meet all eligibility requirements of state law; and
- Must have resided continuously in the state for 12 months and in the council district from which the member is seeking election for six months immediately preceding the regular filing deadline for a council candidate's application for a place on the ballot. The City Clerk's office has calculated the relevant residency deadlines as follows: must have been a resident in the state by August 17, 2013; must have been a resident in the respective council district by February 17, 2014 to be eligible.

The Table of Contents for the Candidate Guide provides directions to various state and local laws and forms, as well as web links to those sites. While the City has provided website links in both Spanish and English, the destination websites may or may not contain Spanish translations.

The Candidate Guide and forms are accessible on-line at <http://www.austintexas.gov/elections>. Forms that were not created by the City of Austin were downloaded from the web. The forms were current as of April 1, 2014; however, please be aware that it is possible the forms may be updated without notice. Prior to using a form in the guide, you should compare the date of the paper form to the date of the web form and ensure that you are using the most current form. The web address for each form located in the guide is listed in the Table of Contents immediately below the name of the form.

Election law, especially campaign finance law, is complex. For this reason, a candidate should consider retaining legal counsel to assist him/her. Staff in the City Clerk's office cannot advise candidates, groups who support or oppose candidates or measures, or members of the public on matters pertaining to election or campaign finance law, as the City Clerk and staff must maintain neutrality in the electoral process. Likewise, the City Attorney and staff in the Law Department cannot advise candidates, groups who support or oppose candidates or measures, or members of the

public on matters pertaining to election or campaign finance law, as they are charged with providing legal representation to the City as an entity.

The duty of the City Clerk's office includes accepting, retaining and providing public access to the various applications, affidavits and financial statements from the candidates. Staff will note the date and time of filing on the forms. The City Clerk's office does not complete, correct information, or comment upon the timeliness or sufficiency of reports filed. The City Clerk's office cannot interpret election laws for the candidates, but when possible will direct candidates to the correct citations for reference. For questions regarding filing deadlines or residency requirements, please contact the City Clerk's office at (512)974-2210.